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FEB 20 2009

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

James R. Geschwindt et al

Serial No.: 10/736,945

Filed: December 15, 2003

Title: Permeable Inlet Fuel Gas Distributor
for Fuel Cells

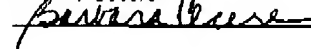
Docket No.: C-2950

Art Unit: 1795

Examiner: Laios, Maria J.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile
transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark
Office (Fax No. 571-273-8300) on
February 20, 2008.

Barbara Cecere

REQUEST FOR READABLE COPY OF OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pages 4, 6 and 8 (copies herewith) of the Office Action dated February 4, 2009 have figures thereon with legends in boxes which obscure the text of the Office Action. It is requested that a new Office Action be issued where all the text is visible and can be read, and a new period for response be set.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: February 20, 2008

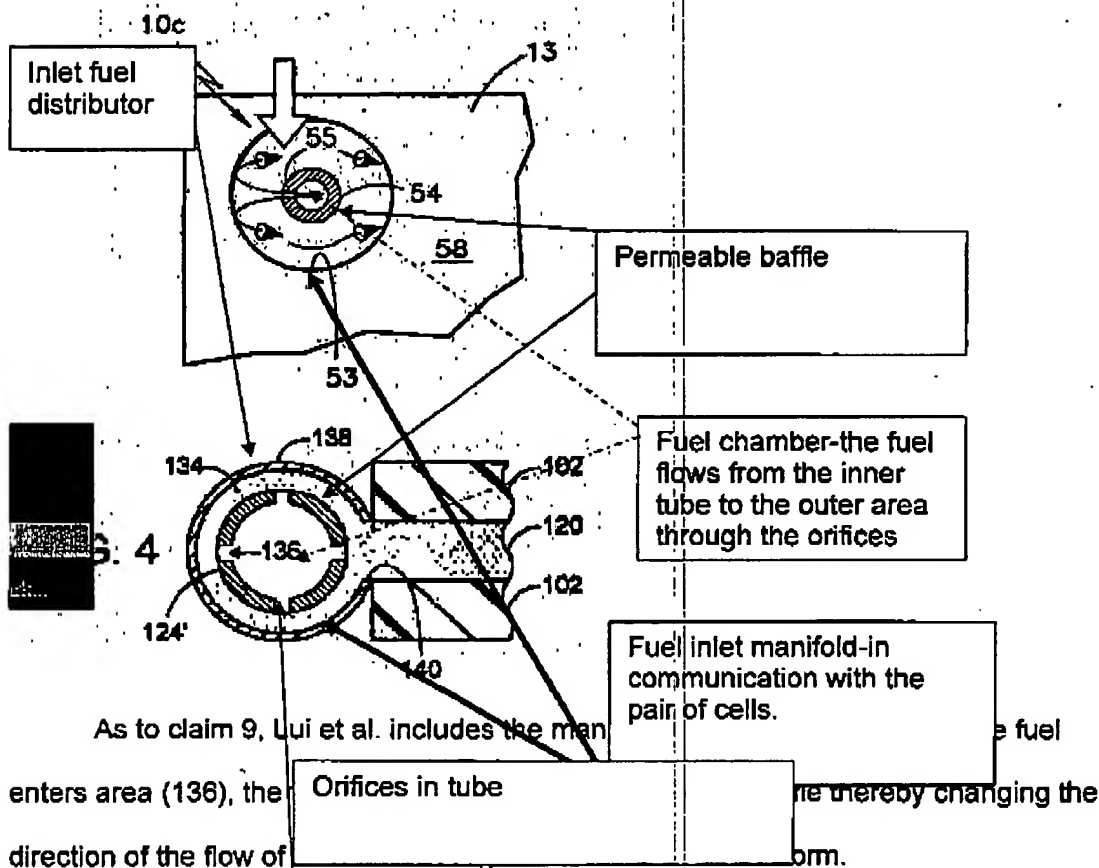
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As to claims 2 and 4, Lui et al. discloses a fuel cell system comprising a pair of cells (Paragraph 26). Each of the cells will inherently have a fuel flow field and a fuel inlet and a fuel supply pipe. (See Figures below for a comparison match between applicants figure of the elected specie and Lui et al. figure)



As to claim 12, the fuel inlet distributor comprises a first internal manifold receiving fuel from the fuel supply pipe (area 136) a second internal fuel manifold (area

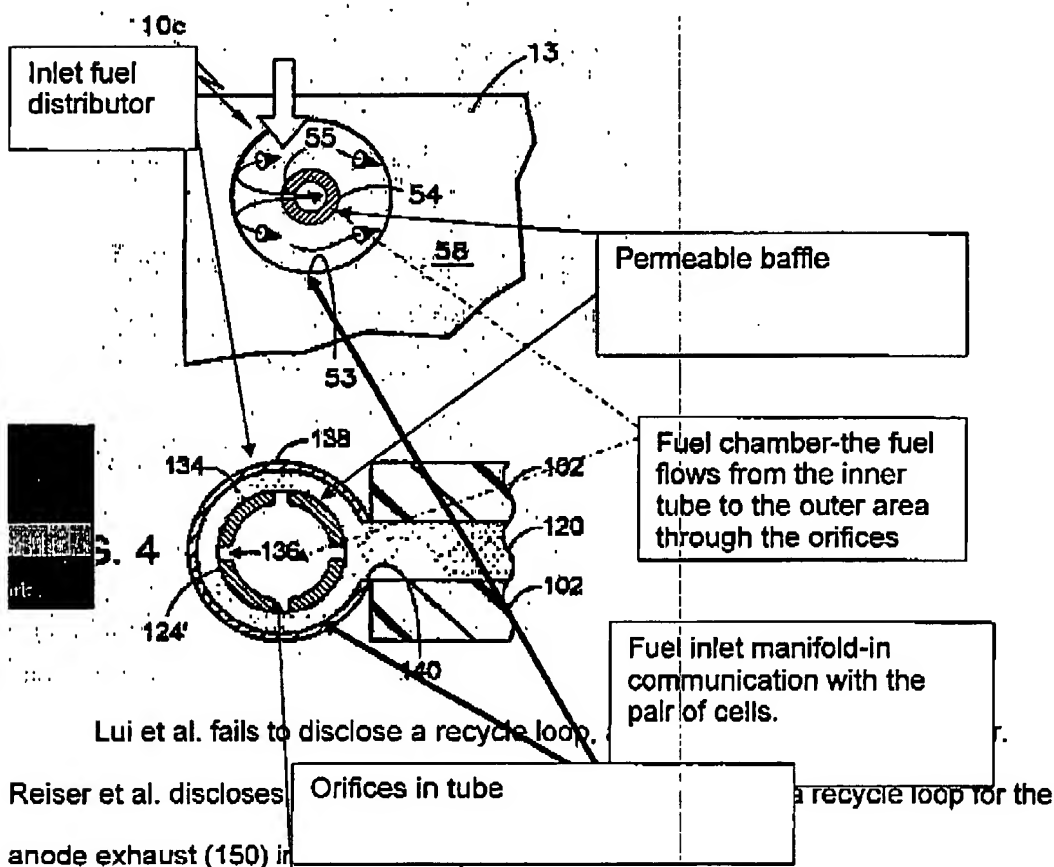
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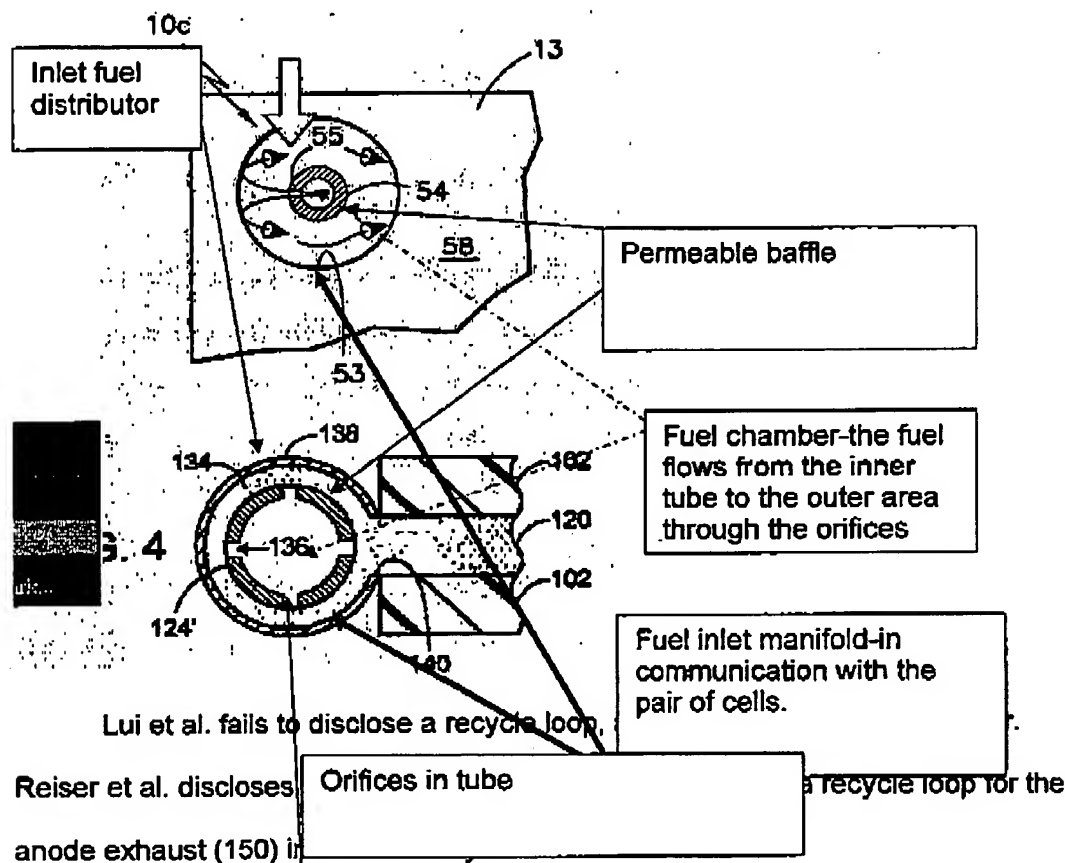
11. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lui et al. (US 2004/0058220 A1 in view of Reiser et al. (US 2002/0076582 A1)).

As to claim 14, Lui et al. disclose a plurality of fuel cells, each of the fuel cells have at least one fuel flow field and a fuel inlet and fuel outlet. Each of the cells will inherently have a fuel flow field and a fuel inlet and a fuel supply pipe. (See Figures below for a comparison match between applicants figure of the elected specie and Lui et al. figure)



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However Lui modified by Reiser fail to disclose the recycled fuel is provided down stream of the permeable baffle.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to replenish the fuel in the system because it would save the fuel from being expended. Furthermore the placement of the fuel downstream of the baffle would allow the recycled fuel to enter the cells directly and would further mix with the fuel entering from the orifices thus homogenizing the fuel entering the cells.